UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,220	10/30/2003	Thomas E. Creamer	BOC9-2003-0050 (421)	9779

			EXAMINER
40987	7590	12/22/2005	NGUYEN, QUYNH H

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2642	

DATE MAILED: 12/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/697,220	CREAMER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Quynh H. Nguyen	2642	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _Amendment filed 10/14/05_.
2a)☒ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☐ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-21_ is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) _1-21_ is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)
1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1.   Applicant's amendment filed 10/14/05 has been entered. Claims 1, 3-4, 8, 10, 15-16, and 18 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. No claims have been added. Claims 1-21 are still pending in this application, with claims 1, 8, and 15-16 being independent.

2.   The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   Claims 1-6, 8-13, and 15-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu (U.S. Patent 6,275,575) in view of Chen et al. (Pub. No.: US 2003/0035381).

As to claim 1, Wu teaches within an interactive voice response system (*IVRU*), a method of aggregating conference calls (col. 2, lines 53-61) comprising the steps of:

registering a caller with the interactive voice response system (col. 2, lines 62-65; col. 3, lines 3-12; and col. 5, line 45 through col. 6, line 4 - *where Wu discussed the conference coordinator selects subscribers for the conference, the software agents generates invitations and forwarded to those selected participants using an IVRU, and the participants who responded positively to conference invitation will be contacted*

upon commencement of the telephone conference, hence registering a caller with the interactive voice response system);

authorizing access to a calendar system containing at least a telephone number for scheduled conference call (col. 7, line 48 through col. 8, line3);

retrieving contact information from the selected/registered participant's storage means 103 (col. 5, lines 25-29 - *where Wu discussed storage means 103 for storing contact and schedule information such as the participant's daily schedule*; and col. 8, lines 41-53 - *where Wu discussed retrieving contact information from selected participants*);

at approximately a time of the conference call, automatically calling the telephone number for the conference call (col. 3, lines 22-26 and col. 6, lines 31-35);

establishing contact with the registered caller (col. 3, lines 25-26; col. 5, line 66 through col. 6, line 4; and col. 10, lines 51-53 - *where Wu discussed the telephone conference server initiates calls to the selected participants*); and

joining the registered caller with the conference call (col. 6, lines 3-4).

However, Wu does not explicitly teach authorizing access to a calendar system containing at least a telephone number for a scheduled conference call; accessing a calendar system used by the registered caller to determine teleconference data specifying at least a telephone number for a scheduled conference call.

Chen et al. teach accessing a calendar system used by the registered caller to determine teleconference data specifying at least a telephone number for a scheduled conference call (page 2, [0016], lines 14-24 - *where Chen discussed accessing*

database 34 is used in conjunction with schedule element 50 to effectuate the

conference call set up to determine telephone numbers to establish the conference

call).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to incorporate the feature of accessing a calendar system used by

the registered caller to determine teleconference data specifying at least a telephone

number for a scheduled conference call, as taught by Chen, in Wu's telephone

conference system thus making the system more diversity and efficient by extending the

ability to set up and control a teleconference by using an IVR for accessing the

scheduler/calendar and database in place of the web server to determine

teleconference data, for example, telephone numbers to establish the conference call,

as discussed by Chen (page 1, [0010]).

As to claim 2, Wu teaches said step of establishing contact further comprising

the step of calling the registered caller (col. 3, lines 25-26; col. 5, line 66 through col. 6,

line 4; and col. 10, lines 51-53 - *where Wu discussed the telephone conference server*

initiates calls to the selected participants).

As to claims 3 and 18, Wu does not teach the step of receiving a call from the

registered caller, wherein one or more programmatic rules are applied for determining

which teleconference the registered caller joins..

Chen et al. teach the step of receiving a call from the registered caller (page 1,

[0009] and page 3, [0022], lines 1-8), scheduling elements 50 contains scheduled

conference elements such as conference call date, conference call time, participant

name, etc. (page 2, [0019]), hence when receiving a call from the registered caller, the

voice server 44 (page 3, [0022] - programmatic rules) would determine which

teleconference the registered caller joins from the conference call date, time, participant

name, etc.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to incorporate the feature of a conference participant calls into the

teleconference call, as taught by Chen, in Wu's telephone conference system thus

making the system more efficient by allowing a participant who wants to join the call is

not at his or her reach number at the time of conference call to call into a conference

call, as taught by Chen (page 3, [0022], lines 4-10).

As to claim 4, Wu teaches obtaining a list of conference call participant and

telephone numbers for each conference call participant from the calendar system (col.

5, lines 25-28 - *where Wu discussed storage means 103 or calendar system store*

contact information and schedule information for conference call participants and col. 6,

lines 17-20 and lines 28-30 - *where Wu discussed the coordinator has provided or*

obtained participants' name identifier and contact information in order to initiate a

telephone conference, hence obtaining a list of conference call participant and

telephone numbers for each conference call participant from the calendar system),

wherein access to the calendar is an authorized process (col. 7, lines 48-67).

As to claim 5, Wu teaches said step of establishing contact further comprising

the step of calling the registered caller (col. 3, lines 25-26; col. 5, line 66 through col. 6,

line 4; and col. 10, lines 51-53 - *where Wu discussed the telephone conference server*

initiates calls to the selected participants).

As to claim 6, Wu does not teach the step of receiving a call within the

interactive voice response system from each conference participant.

Chen et al. teach the step of receiving a call within the interactive voice response

system from each conference participant (page 1, [0009] and page 3, [0022], lines 1-8 -

where Chen discussed receiving a call from a participant into platform 30 as voice

server 44 and page 1, [0009] - *where Chen discussed a voice server comprising a VRU,*

hence receiving a call within the interactive voice response system from each

conference participant).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to incorporate the feature of a conference participant calls into the

teleconference call, as taught by Chen, in Wu's telephone conference system thus

making the system more efficient by allowing a participant who wants to join the call is

not at his or her reach number at the time of conference call to call into a conference

call, as taught by Chen (page 3, [0022], lines 4-10).

As to claim 8, the limitation of the claim is the same as the limitation of claim 1;

therefore, the claim is interpreted and rejected for the same reasons as set forth in claim

1 above. Furthermore, Wu teaches a machine-readable storage, having stored thereon

a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for

causing the machine to perform the steps of claim 8 (col. 2, lines 47-52 - *where Wu*

discussed network based software application modules: contact lists, calendars, etc. to

setup and initiate telephone conference call; col. 3, lines 3-30 - *where Wu discussed*

software agents analyzes conference information; and col. 5, lines 8-37 - *where Wu*

discussed hardware configuration which include machine readable storage and

computer, LDAP software module).

As to claim 9, the limitation of the claim is the same as the limitation of claim 2;

therefore, the claim is interpreted and rejected for the same reasons as set forth in claim

2 above.

As to claim 10, the limitation of the claim is the same as the limitation of claim 3;

therefore, the claim is interpreted and rejected for the same reasons as set forth in claim

3 above.

As to claim 11, the limitation of the claim is the same as the limitation of claim 4;

therefore, the claim is interpreted and rejected for the same reasons as set forth in claim

4 above.

As to claim 12, the limitation of the claim is the same as the limitation of claim 5;

therefore, the claim is interpreted and rejected for the same reasons as set forth in claim

5 above.

As to claim 13, the limitation of the claim is the same as the limitation of claim 6;

therefore, the claim is interpreted and rejected for the same reasons as set forth in claim

6 above.

As to claim 15, the limitation of the claim is the same as the limitation of claim 1;

therefore, the claim is interpreted and rejected for the same reasons as set forth in claim

1 above. Furthermore, Wu teaches a system for aggregating conference calls (col. 4,

lines 13-19) comprising:

a network (col. 5, lines 8-24) accessible calendar data specifying times for

teleconferences and telephone numbers for the teleconferences (col. 5, lines 25-29 -

where Wu discussed storage means 103 or calendar system for storing contact

information and schedule information such as teleconference times for a plurality of

subscribers); and

an interactive voice response system (col. 2, lines 53-61 - IVRU) automatically

calls the telephone number for the conference call at approximately a time the

teleconference is scheduled (col. 3, lines 22-26 and col. 6, lines 31-35); establishes

contact with the user (col. 3, lines 25-26; col. 5, line 66 through col. 6, line 4; and col.

10, lines 51-53 - *where Wu discussed the telephone conference server initiates calls to*

the selected participants); and joins the registered caller to the teleconference (col. 6,

lines 3-4).

However, Wu does not explicitly teach an interactive voice response system

configured to scan the calendar system data for a scheduled teleconference and obtain

teleconference data specifying at least a telephone number for the scheduled

teleconference.

Chen et al. teach an interactive voice response system configured to scan the

calendar system used by the registered caller to determine teleconference data

specifying at least a telephone number for a scheduled conference call (page 2, [0016],

lines 14-24 - *where Chen discussed a voice server comprising a VRU is used in*

conjunction with CTI server 32 and schedule element 50 to effectuate the conference

call set up to determine telephone numbers to establish the conference call).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to incorporate the feature of accessing a calendar system used by

the registered caller to determine teleconference data specifying at least a telephone

number for a scheduled conference call, as taught by Chen, in Wu's telephone

conference system thus making the system more diversity and efficient by extending the

ability to set up and control a teleconference by using an IVR for accessing the

scheduler/calendar and database in place of the web server to determine

teleconference data, for example, telephone numbers to establish the conference call,

as discussed by Chen (page 1, [0010]).

As to claim 16, Wu teaches a system for aggregating conference calls (col. 4,

lines 13-19) comprising:

means for registering a caller with the system (col. 2, lines 62-65; col. 3, lines 3-

12; and col. 5, line 45 through col. 6, line 4 - *where Wu discussed the software agents*

resident within the memory of coordinating server device 102 selects subscribers for the

conference, generates invitations and forwarded to those selected participants using an

IVRU, and the participants who responded positively to conference invitation will be

contacted upon commencement of the telephone conference, hence means (software

agents) for registering a caller with the interactive voice response system);

means for authorizing access to a calendar system containing at least a

telephone number for a scheduled conference call (col. 7, line 48 through col. 8, line 3);

retrieving contact information from the selected/registered participant's storage

means 103 (col. 5, lines 25-29 - *where Wu discussed storage means 103 for storing*

contact and schedule information such as the participant's daily schedule; and col. 8,

lines 41-53 - *where Wu discussed retrieving contact information from selected*

participants);

means for, at approximately a time of the conference call, automatically calling

the telephone number for the conference call (col. 3, lines 22-26 and col. 6, lines 31-35 -

where Wu discussed a telephone conference server / the coordinator calling terminal

devices for which the selected participants have access);

means for establishing contact with the registered caller (col. 3, lines 25-26; col.

5, line 66 through col. 6, line 4; and col. 10, lines 51-53 - *where Wu discussed the*

telephone conference server initiates calls to the selected participants); and

means for joining the registered caller with the conference call (col. 6, lines 3-4 -

where Wu discussed the telephone conference server coordinate the conference as the

participants joint the teleconference).

However, Wu does not explicitly teach means for accessing the calendar system

used by the registered caller to determine teleconference data.

Chen et al. teach means accessing a calendar system used by the registered

caller to determine teleconference data specifying at least a telephone number for a

scheduled conference call (page 2, [0016], lines 14-24 - *where Chen discussed*

accessing database 34 is used in conjunction with schedule element 50 to effectuate

the conference call set up to determine telephone numbers to establish the conference call).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the means for accessing a calendar system used by the registered caller to determine teleconference data specifying at least a telephone number for a scheduled conference call, as taught by Chen, in Wu's telephone conference system thus making the system more diversity and efficient by extending the ability to set up and control a teleconference by using an IVR for accessing the scheduler/calendar and database in place of the web server to determine teleconference data, for example, telephone numbers to establish the conference call, as discussed by Chen (page 1, [0010]).

As to claim 17, Wu teaches said step of establishing contact further comprising the step of means for calling the registered caller (col. 3, lines 25-26; col. 5, line 66 through col. 6, line 4; and col. 10, lines 51-53 - *where Wu discussed the telephone conference server initiates calls to the selected participants*).

As to claim 19 Wu teaches means for obtaining a list of conference call participant and telephone numbers for each conference call participant from the calendar system (col. 5, lines 25-28 - *where Wu discussed storage means 103 or calendar system store contact information and schedule information for conference call participants;* and col. 6, lines 17-20 and lines 28-30 - *where Wu discussed the coordinator has provided or obtained participants' name identifier and contact information in order to initiate a telephone conference, hence means for obtaining a list*

of conference call participant and telephone numbers for each conference call

participant from the calendar system).

As to claim 20, Wu teaches means for calling the registered caller (col. 3, lines

25-26; col. 5, line 66 through col. 6, line 4; and col. 10, lines 51-53 - *where Wu*

discussed the telephone conference server initiates calls to the selected participants).

As to claim 21, Wu does not teach means for receiving a call within the

interactive voice response system from each conference participant.

Chen et al. teach means for receiving a call within the interactive voice response

system from each conference participant (page 1, [0009] and page 3, [0022], lines 1-8 -

where Chen discussed receiving a call from a participant into platform 30 as voice

server 44 and page 1, [0009] - *where Chen discussed a voice server comprising a VRU,*

hence means for receiving a call within the interactive voice response system from each

conference participant).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to incorporate the means for receiving a call within the interactive

voice response system from each conference participant, as taught by Chen, in Wu's

telephone conference system thus making the system more efficient by allowing a

participant who wants to join the call is not at his or her reach number at the time of

conference call to call into a conference call, as taught by Chen (page 3, [0022], lines 4-

10).

4.   Claims 7, 14, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Wu (U.S. Patent 6,275,575) in view of Chen et al. (Pub. No.: US 2003/0035381)

and further in view of Zhakov et al. (Pub. No.: US 2004/0199580).

As to claim 7, Wu and Chen do not teach authenticating each conference call

participant prior to joining each conference call participant to the conference call.

Zhakov et al. teach authenticating each conference call participant prior to joining

each conference call participant to the conference call (page 8, [0077], lines 4-6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made the feature of authenticating each conference call participant prior

to joining each conference call participant to the conference call, as taught by Zhakov,

in Wu's and Chen's systems thus making the system more secure and efficient by only

allowing authorized participants to engage in or access to certain conference sessions

but not any participants who are calling into the conference system, as discussed by

Zhakov et al. (page 8, [0075]).

As to claims 14 and 22, the limitation of the claim is the same as the limitation

of claim 7; therefore, the claim is interpreted and rejected for the same reasons as set

forth in claim 7 above.

Response to Arguments

5.   Applicant's arguments filed 10/14/05 have been fully considered but they are not

persuasive. Applicants' arguments are addressed in the above claims rejections.

Furthermore, Applicants argue that "Applicant's invention utilizes intelligent

agents and network based software applicant modules (i.e., contact lists, email,

calendars, etc.) to facilitate the setup and initiation of telephone conference calls..."

Examiner agrees with Applicants, and the Wu reference teaches the same as

Applicant's invention (Abstract; col. 2, lines 43-52).

Applicants argue that Zhakov teaches authentication of callers before they can

be allowed to participate in a conference. Examiner agrees, and that is why Zhakov

only used as a secondary reference to reject dependent claims 7, 14, and 22 that recite,

"authenticating each conference call participant prior to joining each conference call

participant to the conference call". Applicants further argue that Zhakov does not

disclose a calendar system. Examiner totally aware of this and never did mention that

Zhakov teach a calendar system.

Conclusion

6.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in

this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37

CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

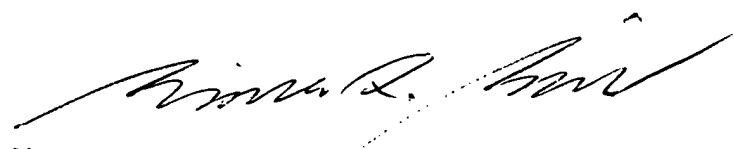mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Quynh H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-

7489. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 6:15 A.M. to

4:45 P.M.

        If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Ahmad Matar, can be reached on 571-272-7488. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-7489.

        Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Quynh H. Nguyen
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2642

BING Q. BUI
PRIMARY EXAMINER